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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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X PROSPECTIVE PRODUCTION OF ALSIKE-CLOVER SEED THIS YEAR
LITTLE SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR BUT LARGER THAN AVERAGE X

Production of alsike-clover seed this year is forecast at 409,400 bushels (24,564,000 pounds) of thresher-run seed compared with 436,200 bushels (26,172,000 pounds) in 1946 and the 1936-45 average of 320,420 bushels (19,225,200 pounds), the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The 6-percent decline in production from last year is due to an indicated small reduction in acreage, offset only in part by an expected slightly larger yield per acre. Smaller crops than last year are forecast for New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Idaho. But larger crops are in prospect for Minnesota, Oregon, and California.

A total of 151,200 acres is expected to be harvested this year. This is 7 percent smaller than the 162,100 acres harvested last year, but 4 percent larger than the 10-year average of 145,720 acres. Acreage in a majority of States is only about two-thirds as large as in 1946.

Although yield per acre this year in each of the producing States except Illinois is indicated to be either the same as last year or a little smaller, the average for the United States, forecast at 2.71 bushels (163 pounds), is 1 percent larger than in 1946 (2.69 bushels) and 19 percent above the average of 2.27 bushels (136 pounds).

Loss in cleaning the alsike-clover seed this year is estimated at 19.8 percent. This compares with 20.8 percent in 1946 and the 1941-45 average of 20.0 percent. The disposition survey made last spring indicated that 90.5 percent of the 1946 crop of alsike-clover seed was sold to dealers. If this percentage prevails this year and production of clean seed turns out as forecast, dealers may be expected to handle 17.8 million pounds of clean seed from the 1947 crop, compared with 18.8 million pounds of the 1946 crop.

Harvesting of alsike-clover seed in the Central States began about 8 days later than last year but a day earlier than in 1945. Dates on which harvesting began or was expected to begin were: July 30 in Illinois; August 2 in Iowa; August 5 in Wisconsin; August 7 in Ohio and Michigan; August 9 in Minnesota; August 12 in Indiana; and August 17 in Idaho.

Current supplies of alsike-clover seed, including production and carry-over, totaling 22,070,000 pounds of clean seed, are 2 percent larger than in 1946 and 26 percent above the 1941-45 average. The breakdown of supplies, together with other pertinent data, is given in the accompanying table.

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(Over)

Alsiko-Clover Seed Acreage, Yield, Production, etc.
Average 1941-45, Annual 1946 and 1947

	Average 1941-45	1946	Indicated 1947
Number of acres for seed.....	121,080	162,100	151,200
Yield per acre in bushels.....	2.45	2.69	2.71
Production of thresher-run:			
Bushels.....	293,000	436,200	409,400
Pounds.....	17,577,600	26,172,000	24,564,000
Loss in cleaning in percentages (approximate)....	20.0	20.8	19.8
Production of clean seed in pounds.:	14,074,800	20,736,000	19,710,000
Farm carry-over in pounds.....	734,000	360,000	600,000
Dealer carry-over in pounds.....	2,663,600	596,000	1,760,000
Supplies (production plus carry-over) in pounds.....	17,472,400	21,692,000	22,070,000